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NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

March 13, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR Special Assistant to the President
(Mr. Rostow)
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Deputy Under Secretary of State for
Political Affairs
Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: U-2 Reconnaissance of Cambodia

The attached document is a proposal for U-2 reconnaissance
of Cambodia.

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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

Alexander H. Flax

MORI/CDF

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Attachment

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I. JUSTIFICATION



The chairman of COMIREX has been informed of this request and proposal, and U.S. requirements in Cambodia will be considered in the planning of operational missions.

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II. OPERATIONAL CONCEPT

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While only one mission in good weather is required to obtain the desired coverage, two missions may be required because of the statistical weather forecast.

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[REDACTED]
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III. AIR DEFENSE ANALYSIS

Cambodia has only a token air defense system. A few radars, a few antiaircraft artillery, a few MIG-15 and MIG-17 fighter aircraft, and very few trained personnel.

A Big Bar/Big Mesh radar at Phnom Penh may have tracked Giant Dragon flights near Cambodia, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] It is possible this site might detect this U-2 aircraft flight also.

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[REDACTED]

impacted near Phnom Penh. Spoon Rest A is primarily an early warning radar but is also known to serve in a target acquisition capacity for the SA-2 system. Photography or other sources have not confirmed any SA-2 or new radar in Cambodia. Therefore there is no known threat to the U-2.


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IV. CLIMATOLOGY

THAILAND AND CAMBODIA BORDERS FOR MARCH AND APRIL

General: March and April are considered to be the transitional months between the northeast monsoon of winter and the southwest monsoon of summer. Relatively clear to partly cloudy weather occurs here with the winter monsoon and clouds and frequent rain with the southwest monsoon. As the northwest flow weakens in March, the cloudiness and precipitation gradually increase.

Cloudiness: In March the frequency of 3/10 or less cloud cover ranges from a maximum of 10 days in the northeast border of Thailand and Cambodia to 5 to 8 days at the northwest border southward to the coast of the Gulf of Siam. In April the favorable days for high level photographic conditions have decreased to slightly less than 5 days along the entire border of Thailand and Cambodia.

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and general weather conditions are highly suitable to
aircraft operations.

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V. COVER

An appropriate cover plan will be coordinated
upon approval of the plan contained herein.

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